

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

ANNUAL REPORT

SPARKING INNOVATION



2025



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A close-up photograph of a white lab coat. The coat is slightly wrinkled and has a blue embroidered patch on the left chest that reads "Baylor College of Medicine". Below the patch, the name "Idris Akinlusi, M.D." and "Internal Medicine" are printed in black. The background is softly blurred, showing more lab coats hanging in a room with natural light coming from a window.

To provide high-quality, compassionate care to our patients and educate the next generation of physicians.

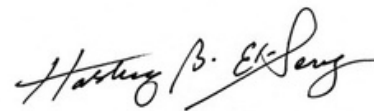
Idris Akinlusi, M.D.
Internal Medicine

Baylor
College of
Medicine

LEARNING
HEALTH
SYSTEM

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Department of Medicine of Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). I hope it will provide you with a glimpse of our dynamic and successful department. Many of our faculty have attained stature at the international level, and many more are developing pre-eminent careers as clinicians, investigators, and educators. Our faculty's contributions advance the missions of BCM and its affiliated teaching hospitals. We have an extraordinary group of internal medicine residents and several outstanding subspecialty fellowship training programs. Our faculty are united in their commitment and dedication to providing the highest quality care to our patients and training the next generation of leaders in medicine. Looking ahead, we are hopeful about the future and confident in our ability to continue delivering value to our patients and other stakeholders.



Hashem B. El-Serag, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice President, Learning Health System
Chair, Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek
Department of Medicine

Baylor
College of
Medicine

SECTION CHIEFS

Our Section Chiefs are the driving force behind the Department of Medicine's clinical, research, educational, and operational excellence. Their leadership fosters strategic growth that allows the section to meet its goals while enhancing physician training and revolutionary, innovative research.



Cardiology and
Cardiovascular Research

**CHRISTIE
BALLANTYNE, M.D.**



Endocrinology, Diabetes,
and Metabolism

MARK HERMAN, M.D.



Epidemiology and
Population Sciences

AARON THRIFT, Ph.D.



Gastroenterology and
Hepatology

MOHAMED OTHMAN, M.D.



General Internal Medicine

JOEY FISHER, M.D.



Geriatrics and
Palliative Medicine

ELIZABETH KVALE, M.D.



Health Services Research

LAURA PETERSEN, M.D., M.P.H.



Hematology and
Oncology

LEO LUZNIK, M.D.



Immunology, Allergy,
and Rheumatology

**JAVINDER SINGH, M.D.,
M.P.H.**



Infectious Diseases

THOMAS GIORDANO, M.D.



Nephrology

**WOLFGANG WINKELMAYER,
M.D., M.P.H., SC.D.**



Pulmonary, Critical Care,
and Sleep Medicine

IVAN ROSAS, M.D.



Transition Medicine

ELLEN FREMION, M.D.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP



JOSEPH SAYEGH, M.B.A.
VICE CHAIR FOR FINANCE &
ADMINISTRATION



LESLIE WU, C.R.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ADMINISTRATOR FOR
RESEARCH



DENNIS PLEDGER, M.B.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ADMINISTRATOR FOR
CLINICAL AFFAIRS



GRANT COFFMAN, M.B.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ADMINISTRATOR FOR
FINANCE & STRATEGY



Baylor
College of
Medicine

VALUES
RESPECT
Integrity
INNOVATION
Teamwork
Excellence



CLINICAL

The Department of Medicine continues to deliver exceptional clinical care across a wide range of specialties and subspecialties. This year, our faculty provided 632,000 patient encounters, a 6% increase from FY24, across eight practice locations: Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, McNair Clinic, O'Quinn Tower, Fannin Tower, Sugar Land, The Woodlands, Vintage, and San Felipe. Clinicians performed 25,204 hospital procedures (up 20% from FY24). Patient service revenue reached \$82 million, up 9.5%, reinforcing the department's strong performance across all practice locations.

Our physicians and Advanced Practice Providers deliver compassionate care for conditions ranging from diabetes and heart disease to complex challenges like cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, and AIDS. Integrating research into practice, the Department continues to improve outcomes and has secured \$100 million to expand services in Sugar Land, The Woodlands, and Vintage over the next five years in the communities we serve.

RESEARCH

The Department of Medicine is dedicated to advancing health through innovative, impactful research. We have brought in \$117 million in extramural funding from NIH, Department of Defense, and various foundations in the last year. Our faculty lead pioneering basic, clinical, and translational research programs recognized at both national and international levels. There are five NIH-sponsored T32 training awards and one training grant funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas in the Department of Medicine.

The department was awarded a \$39.9 million NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) UM1 grant (MPI: Dr. Fasiha Kanwal) to support cutting-edge translational research over seven years and a \$4.3 million CTSA K12 Program grant (MPI: Dr. Rolando Rumbaut), emphasizing career development of physician-scientists. The project title of this grant is "Consortium for Translational and Precision Health." It is a collaborative effort to support a bi-institutional hub for infrastructure, services, and community engagement to advance translational and precision health innovations. The goal is to improve the health of diverse populations through strong partnerships with local and regional stakeholders. The hub will also build innovative training and career development programs across the translational workforce to drive change, transform science, and significantly improve population health.





EDUCATION

The Department of Medicine strives for excellence in medical education and prepares the next generation of physicians and leaders in internal medicine. Our Internal Medicine Residency Training Program, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country, trains approximately 220 residents annually. Residents gain diverse experiences across all of Baylor's affiliate clinics, ensuring they are well-prepared for careers in primary care, subspecialty practice, or hospital medicine.

Our fellowship programs offer advanced training in various specialties, including Allergy and Immunology, Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Preventive Cardiology, Critical Care Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Gastroenterology, Advanced Endoscopy, Geriatrics, Health Services Research, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Primary Care, and Transplant Hepatology.

This year, Dr. Stephanie Sherman was appointed as the inaugural Senior Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program. This new role reflects the program's continued growth and complexity, the commitment to supporting our trainees and faculty, and continued leadership development.

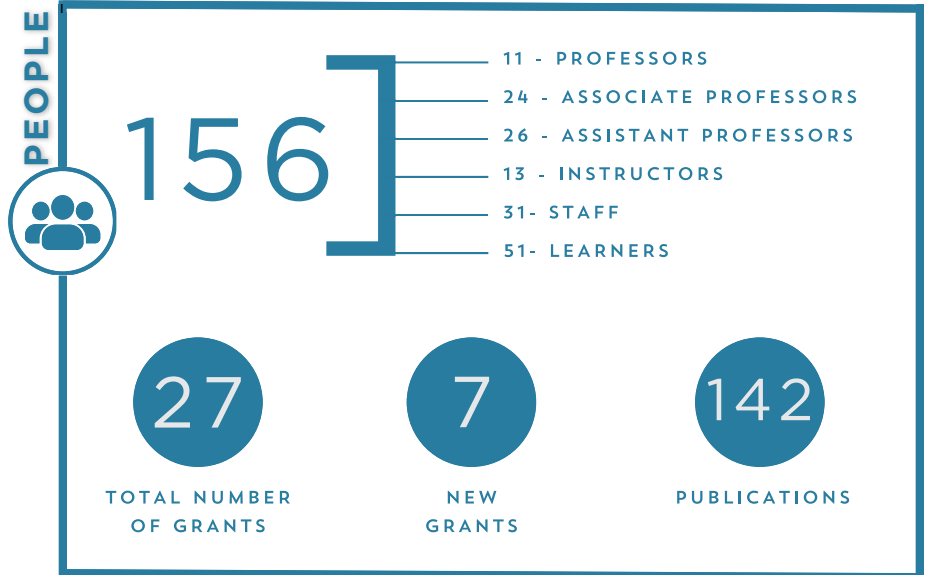


SECTION
UPDATES

CARDIOLOGY



CHRISTIE BALLANTYNE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Cardiology made major advances toward providing comprehensive, state-of-the-art cardiovascular care, conducted cutting-edge clinical research, and trained cardiology fellows. Faculty and trainees participated in local, national, and international meetings.

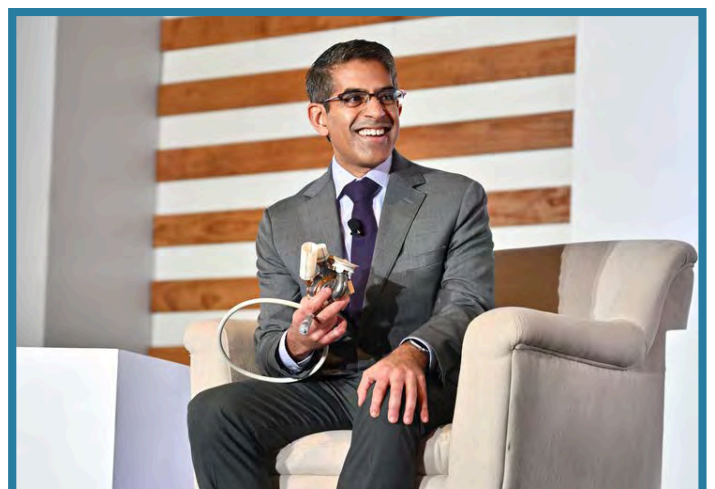
EDUCATION

Educational initiatives further evolved by transitioning to four-week blocks, which supports participation in more electives, and introducing an echo and a catheterization rotation to support early skills training. Fellows rotating at BCM and

the Texas Heart Institute distinguished themselves at national conferences and received the American Heart Association (AHA) Clinical Research Fellowship Awards and an Academy of Resident and Fellow Educators Trainee Excellence Award. The Section held the 16th Annual Texas Heart Institute Cardiac Society Symposium, the Ali Massumi Cardiac Arrhythmia Symposium, and Cardiology Grand Rounds. It sponsored several visiting lecturers, including Drs. Roxana Mehran (John Lewis Interventional Lecture), Khurram Nassir (Don W. Chapman Memorial Lecture), and Stanley Hazen (Edward Dennis Memorial Lecture).



Cardiology Grand Rounds



Dr. Ajith Nair

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Faculty conducted nationally recognized, impactful research. Dr. Biykem Bozkurt received the American College of Cardiology (ACC) 2025 Distinguished Fellow Award. Dr. Arumina Misra received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation. Dr. Enrique Garcia-Sayan was appointed to the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* Editorial Board. Dr. Gabriel Habib was named Associate Editor of *Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy* and appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. Dr. Glenn Levine chaired the AHA scientific statement on post-myocardial infarction care. Dr. Ali Denktas was named Chair of the ACC Federal Section Leadership Council. Dr. Waleed Kayani was appointed Cardiac Subcommittee Co-Chair of the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council. Section faculty also served on the Steering Committee of MAPLE-HCM trial. Funding highlights include renewal of the Harry Moss Heart Trust Award for Dr. Xiaoming Jia and a five-year NIH R01 grant for Dr. Mihail Chelu. Dr. Chelu also led the pivotal Sync Study, evaluating the diagnosis of ventricular dyssynchrony using the Ultra-High Frequency Electrocardiogram from VDI Technologies. Dr. Hamid Afshar implanted a combined cardiac-contractility-modulation-defibrillator device for the first time in a Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital. Drs. Lola Xie and Ajith Nair led Phase 3 trials of treatments developed by Cytokinetics for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The phase 2 GenePHIT trial randomized its first patient. Faculty enrolled participants in landmark trials, including PreVail-PH2, DORAYA, MAGNITUDE, and PROSERA.

CLINICAL

The Section's clinical programs expanded in all affiliated hospitals. At Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC), section faculty performed a first-in-human implantation of a BiVACOR total artificial heart and added two pulsed-field ablation technologies. At Ben Taub Hospital, cardiology collaborated with endocrinology to expand lipid clinic services to diabetes care, launched a hospital-wide Morbidity & Mortality program, and established three new catheterization labs and an electrophysiology lab. They added advanced support therapies, including Impella, bedside ECMO, and EC-Pella, and a cardiogenic shock program. The hospital earned the Platinum Performance Achievement Award from the National Cardiovascular Data Registry's Chest Pain: MI Registry and multiple AHA Mission Lifeline Awards. Cardiology at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) implemented ECHO NAV and Amulet left atrial appendage occlusion, used drug-coated balloons in a VA hospital for the first time, and treated the 14th patient with a novel cardiac contractility modulation device. MEDVAMC was one of the first centers nationally to use Biosense/CARTO pulsed-field ablation for atrial fibrillation.



Fellows Welcome Social

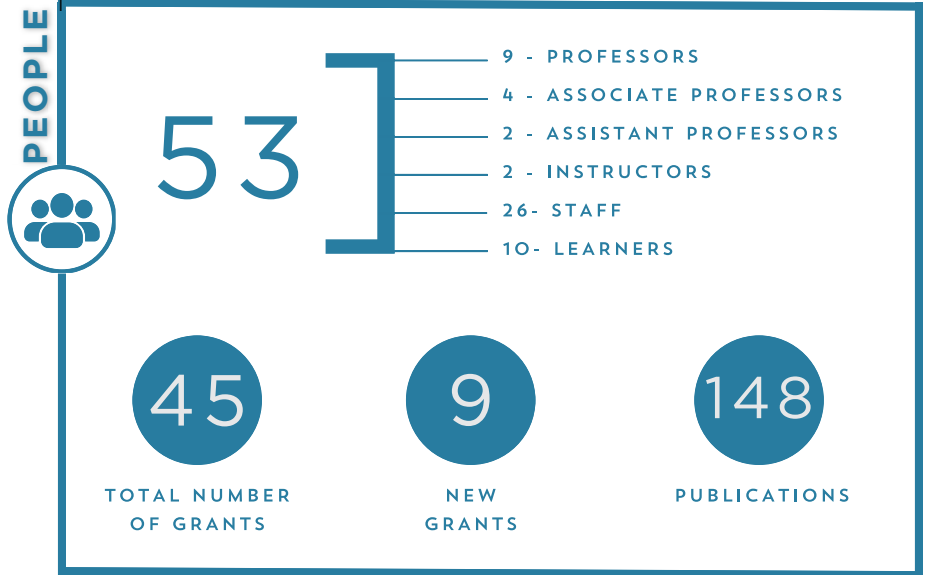


Heart Rhythm Society Meeting

CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH



CHRISTIE BALLANTYNE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

Section faculty have been ranked #1 in LDL-C care in the U.S. and #4 globally by Expertscape. Dr. Na Li received the Michael E. DeBakey Excellence in Research Award for published research that advanced impactful discoveries and demonstrated scientific merit in clinical or basic biomedical research over the past three years. Preventive Cardiology fellow, Dr. Arsalan Hamid, presented abstracts at national conferences of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the National Lipid Association. Dr. Sandra Haudek received the 2025 Distinguished Career Award

for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Scholarship from the International Association of Medical Science Educators for her exemplary record of teaching and educational scholarship, including conducting educational research and disseminating scholarly approaches to education. Dr. Vijay Nambi was selected for the ACC Prevention Council and as the Prevention Topic Editor for the ACCSAP learning resource. Dr. Christie Ballantyne served as President of the National Lipid Association and was recognized as one of the Best Doctors in America.



Grand Rounds



Dr. Na Li Receiving the Michael E. DeBakey Excellence in Research Award

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The Section of Cardiovascular Research was highly productive in basic, translational, and clinical research. Section faculty published 148 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including 37 articles in journals with an impact factor higher than eight, e.g., the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *BMJ*, *Cell*, *Circulation*, *European Heart Journal*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, and *JAMA Cardiology*. Research results were presented at national and international conferences, including the annual meetings of the ACC, American Diabetes Association, and AHA. Section faculty conducted clinical trials of novel therapies in the Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention, the results of which were presented as late-breaking clinical trials with simultaneous publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Dr. Layla Abushamat was awarded a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases K23 grant for “Mechanisms and consequences of erythritol and erythronate excess in cardiometabolic disease” (\$973,440 over five years). Dr. Xinchun Pi was awarded a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute R01 grant for “The pathophysiology of vascular remodeling in pulmonary hypertension” (\$3,873,559 over four years). Dr. Huaizhu Wu was awarded a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases R01 grant for



Dr. Christie Ballantyne co-chaired the Family Heart Annual Meeting, shown here with Nobel laureates Drs. Joseph Goldstein and Michael Brown (2nd & 3rd from left)

“microRNA Regulation of Adipose Tissue Immune Response in Obesity” (\$3,296,664 over five years).

CLINICAL

Clinical trials conducted in the Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention included studies of new therapies that target mRNA of key proteins in lipid metabolism to treat dyslipidemias not adequately controlled with current drugs. High triglyceride levels were reduced with mRNA silencing of angiopoietin-like protein 3 or apolipoprotein C-III, and elevated lipoprotein(a) was reduced by silencing apolipoprotein(a) mRNA. The Center offers comprehensive genetic testing, including polygenic risk scores for cardiometabolic disorders.

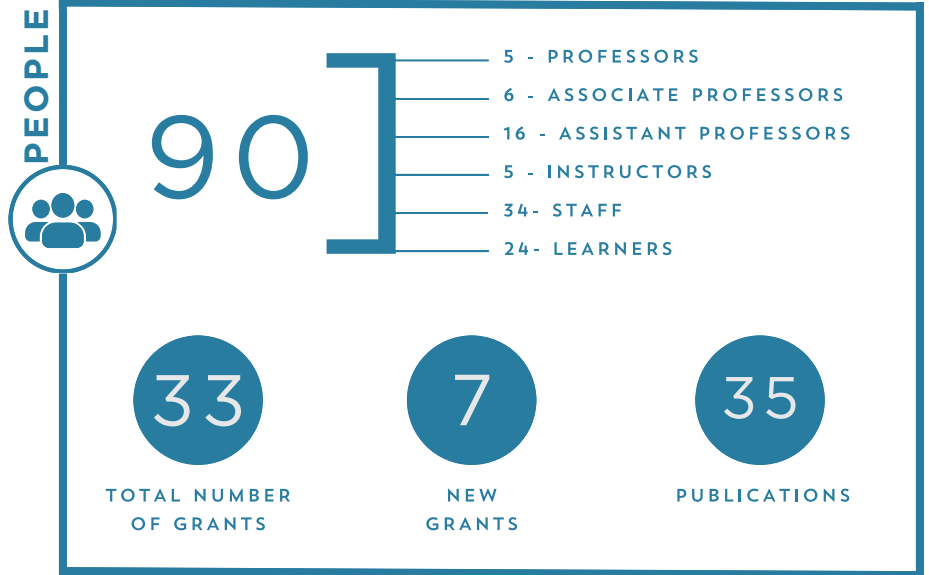
EDUCATION

This year’s Preventive Cardiology Fellow, Dr. Arsalan Hamid, presented a poster at the ACC Scientific Session in March 2025, reporting his research on the use of biomarkers to identify high-risk overweight and obese individuals who may receive the greatest benefit from treatment. Dr. Jing Xiao, a postdoctoral associate, presented a moderated poster at the same ACC Scientific Session, reporting on foamy monocyte formation and inflammation in severe hypertriglyceridemia. Dr. Yue Yuan completed a two-year AHA postdoctoral fellowship focusing on the role of gasdermin D in atrial arrhythmia, which yielded a first-author publication in the *European Heart Journal*. Dr. Tingting Li received a Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Award and a two-year AHA postdoctoral fellowship. The Section’s ongoing conference series include the Atherosclerosis and Preventive Cardiology Conference and the Center for Translational Research on Inflammatory Diseases Research Seminar. Dr. Vijay Nambi won a Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Leadership.

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES, AND METABOLISM



MARK HERMAN, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

The Section was once again recognized locally and nationally for outstanding endocrine care. The BSLMC Diabetes Program ranked among the highest-performing programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Six faculty members—Drs. Mandeep Bajaj, Sara Bedrose, Eric Deal, Ruchi Gaba, Sanjay Mediwala, and Madhuri Vasudevan—were honored as Top Doctors in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism by *Houstonia* magazine. The Section continues to cultivate sub-specialty centers of endocrine excellence. Dr. Sara Bedrose and the Adrenal Center published their initial findings from a multicenter study on the clinical and radiological outcomes of lipid-poor adrenal

Dr. Bajaj was appointed Co-Chair of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Professional Practice Committee, which will produce the 2026 ADA Standards of Care in Diabetes, a globally influential document that shapes clinical practice and policy. He also contributed to the ADA’s consensus statement on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and was invited by the International Diabetes Federation to serve on a working group developing diagnostic and therapeutic guidelines for type 5 diabetes, a malnutrition-related form of diabetes.



Endocrine Society 2025 Conference



Faculty, Fellows, and Program Director Dr. Ruchi Gaba

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The Section achieved several significant research accomplishments this year. In addition to securing six new foundation grants and NIH subcontracts, Dr. Dongyin Guan, an early-career faculty member, was awarded a five-year, \$2.5 million NIH R37 grant for his project, “3D Circadian Enhancer-Promoter Interactions Mediated by ESRRG in NAFLD-to-HCC Progression.” This award builds upon his innovative work at the intersection of circadian biology and liver disease. Dr. Qiancheng Zhao brought international recognition to the Section as the Grand Prize Winner of the 2024 Science & PINS Prize for Neuromodulation. His research explores the molecular, cellular, and neural-circuit mechanisms of interoception, which has broad implications on the development of precise neuromodulation therapies for interoceptive disorders. His prize-winning commentary, “Navigating internal senses: A road map for the vagal interoceptive system” was published in *Science*. Members of the section also contributed prominently at the ADA’s 85th Scientific Sessions in Chicago. Dr. Bajaj chaired and spoke at a symposium on the ADA’s first-ever consensus report on the management of liver disease in diabetes, which highlighted new clinical strategies to reduce the risk of developing MASLD. Dr. Mark Herman chaired a symposium on obesity pathogenesis and policy and presented his group’s research on novel mechanisms of action for metformin. The Section published several impactful papers across high-profile journals. Dr. Sean Hartig reported on miR-30a acting as a regulator of adipose tissue fibrosis and systemic glucose metabolism in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. Dr. Guan’s *Nature Communications* article reported how human genetic variation drives rhythmic gene expression and influences disease risk. Additional notable publications include articles in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* (Drs. Dennis Villareal and Reina Armamento-Villareal), *Cell Reports* (Dr. Herman), *Cell Metabolism* (Drs. Hartig and Herman), and *Diabetes Care*

(Dr. Ashok Balasubramanyam). The Section’s achievements underscore their leadership in advancing fundamental discoveries in metabolism, diabetes, and obesity and translating these insights into improved therapies and guidelines.

EDUCATION

Impactful educational initiatives and leadership in education and training marked the 2025 academic year. In December, Dr. Bajaj chaired the Alan J. Garber Annual Symposium on Advanced Diabetes Management for Endocrine Fellows in honor of Dr. Garber’s legacy at BCM. Dr. Gaba co-chaired the Annual Texas Endocrine Association Meeting and continues to serve on its Board of Directors. Section faculty remain active in public education, providing expert commentary to local and national media on various topics, such as holiday eating strategies, use of GLP-1 receptor agonists, diabetes-related depression, thyroid changes during pregnancy, maintaining muscle mass with aging, and healthy lifestyle habits. Dr. Byran Jiang advanced into his new role as BCM’s Director of Assessment, intending to broaden the impact of curriculum design and evaluation. Additionally, Dr. Tomi Asemota was selected for the Endocrine Society’s “Future Leaders Advancing Research in Endocrinology” program based on her work in diabetes and health disparities during the second year of her Endocrine Fellowship. This program will further her development as a physician-scientist.

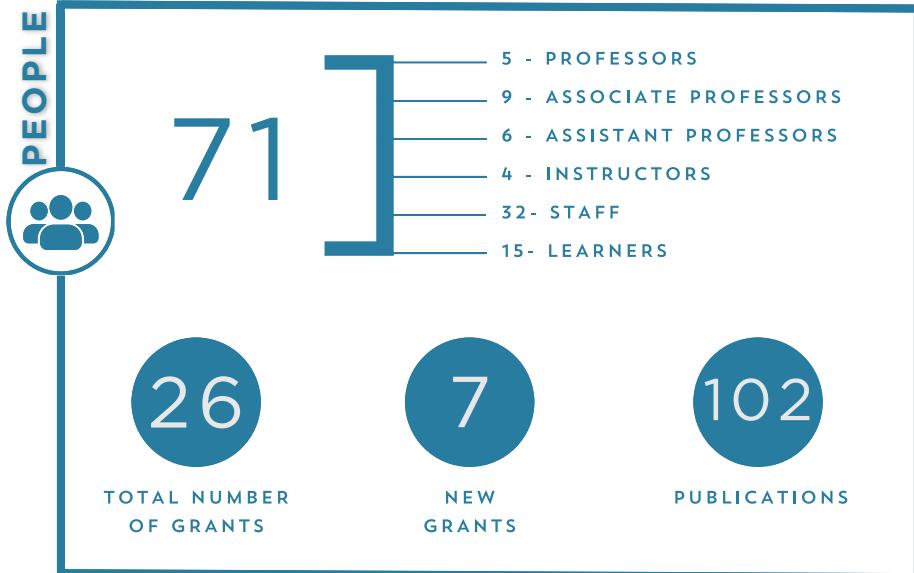


Fellows Graduation Celebration

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND POPULATION SCIENCES



AARON THRIFT, PH.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Epidemiology and Population Sciences promotes high-quality epidemiology and is a source of research, collaboration, instruction, and outreach. Researchers study the emergence of illnesses in communities, the factors that put people at risk for illness, the effects of policy changes, and how these variables may improve the community's health in the future. Genetics, nutrition, cancer, quantitative biology, and health psychology are a few of the fields within the varied methodology toolkit used by our faculty. These studies inform policymakers and clinicians by addressing public and individual health.

The Section celebrated several notable promotions and appointments this year. Dr. Aaron Thrift was appointed Section Chief and named to the William T. Butler Endowed Chair for Distinguished Faculty, honoring his impactful research in cancer epidemiology and public health. Dr. Chao Cheng was promoted to Professor. Drs. Yanhong Liu and Kristina Dahlstrom both advanced to Associate Professor, recognizing their continued contributions to research and education. Additionally, Dr. Dafei Chai was promoted to Instructor, marking an important step in their academic career.



Administrative Staff



Dr. Abiodun Oluoyomi

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Drs. Cheng and Yong Li, as well as Dr. Robert Taylor Ripley from the Department of Surgery, were awarded a five-year, \$3.3 million NIH grant to investigate PD-L1 modifications and their role in cancer diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Thrift was named site principal investigator for two new National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded studies: the RESPOND Cohort, a five-year, \$5.8 million project identifying factors linked to prostate cancer progression and survival in African-American men, and Family RESPOND, a five-year, \$4 million initiative investigating the genetic basis of prostate cancer risk in African-American families. Additionally, Drs. Thrift and Abiodun Oluyomi are co-investigators on a new CPRIT-funded project, the Texas Collaborative Center for Hepatocellular Cancer, led by Dr. Hashem El-Serag.

EDUCATION

The section launched a new Grand Rounds series to highlight the research of faculty and postdoctoral researchers and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. These sessions featured internal and guest speakers who shared insights into diverse areas of epidemiology and population sciences.

Dr. Priya Shetty delivered a presentation titled “Health Disparities Career and Research Overview” to students in the BCM SMART Summer Program, hosted by the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Itunu Sokale gave a guest lecture on “GIS Application in Cancer Epidemiology” as part of the Cancer Epidemiology course at UTHealth School of Public Health.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

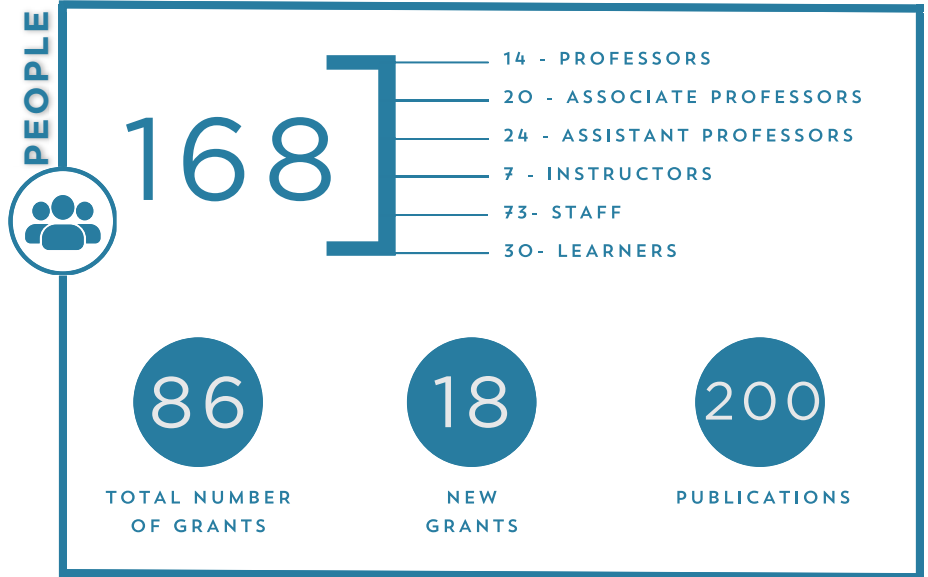
Dr. Chris Amos received the inaugural PAUL Fearn Award for Excellence in Data Sharing from the NCI’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Dr. Oluyomi participated as an observer in a consultation workshop in Bonn, Germany. The workshop focused on integrating non-economic dimensions of loss and damage, particularly in health and urban infrastructure, into national climate strategies. Dr. Thrift was an invited speaker at Digestive Disease Week. Dr. Liu gave an invited lecture at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Hoda Badr was selected to participate in the NCI’s Communication Evolving Cancer Information Ideas Lab. Team BEACON, led by Dr. Badr was recognized for the originality and impact of their proposal and awarded a \$10,000 cash prize to further develop their concept.



GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY



MOHAMED OTHMAN, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked a transition in Section leadership from Dr. Fasiha Kanwal to Dr. Mohamed Othman. The seamless handoff preserved the Section's strengths in clinical care, research, and education. Faculty and fellows achieved notable recognition across BCM and national societies. Dr. Kanwal was elected to the American College of Physicians. Drs. George Cholankeril and Salmaan Jawaid received BCM's Early Career Award. The Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care was awarded to Drs. Avegail Flores, Reena Chokshi, and Ruben Hernaez. Dr. Natalia Khalf received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the teaching and evaluation category.

Dr. Othman was named to the Martha Ann and Dr. Harold Selzman Endowed Chair in the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. The Section's fellows continued to excel, with Dr. Fouad Jaber winning the Fellows Case Competition held by the Texas Gulf Coast Gastroenterological Society and earning an American Gastroenterological Association Innovation Travel Award. The fellowship also welcomed new co-chief fellows, Drs. Franciska Gudenkauf and Taylor Riggs, in January 2025. The Section sustained a visible national presence while expanding local programs and capacity.



GI Fellows awarded the Best Presentation Award at Quality Academy Day



Administrative Staff with Dr. Othman

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Research activity remained substantial and diversified across translational, outcomes, and education-focused domains. This year, thirteen faculty members received new or continuing awards, bringing the Section's portfolio to 19 awards totaling roughly \$4.13 million in new grant support, eight NIH awards accounted for \$2.43 million, and the remainder were funded by CPRIT, the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, the American College of Gastroenterology, industry, and others. The NIH awards included multi-PI R01 grants as well as the renewal of the Section's T32 grant. Funded projects covered various topics, including artificial-intelligence-enabled risk stratification of pancreatic and hepatobiliary diseases, gastric mucosal biology and paligenosis, hepatocellular carcinoma risk modeling, endoscopy and endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) outcomes, and quality initiatives in irritable bowel disease. Seed funding included a \$50,000 proof-of-concept award from BCM Ventures to Dr. Andrew Sninsky and 2025 Pilot Feasibility Awards to Drs. Yongi Zeng and Cholankeril. The Section remains the clinical home for an NIH-funded Digestive Disease Center. Faculty and trainees continued to earn national recognition, including Dr. Tara Keihanian, who received the American College of Gastroenterology Outstanding Research Award in Interventional Endoscopy for a randomized trial of a rigidizing overtube for colonic ESD.

CLINICAL

The Section maintained their high-volume, referral-based practices providing advanced endoscopy, general gastroenterology, hepatology, and programs in irritable bowel disease and motility. The BSLMC team performed their 1,000 ESD procedure, and the ESD program was expanded to Ben Taub Hospital, improving access to third-space endoscopy within Harris Health. At the Baylor St. Luke's growing Sugar Land practice, Gastroenterology added one full-time equivalent.

EDUCATION

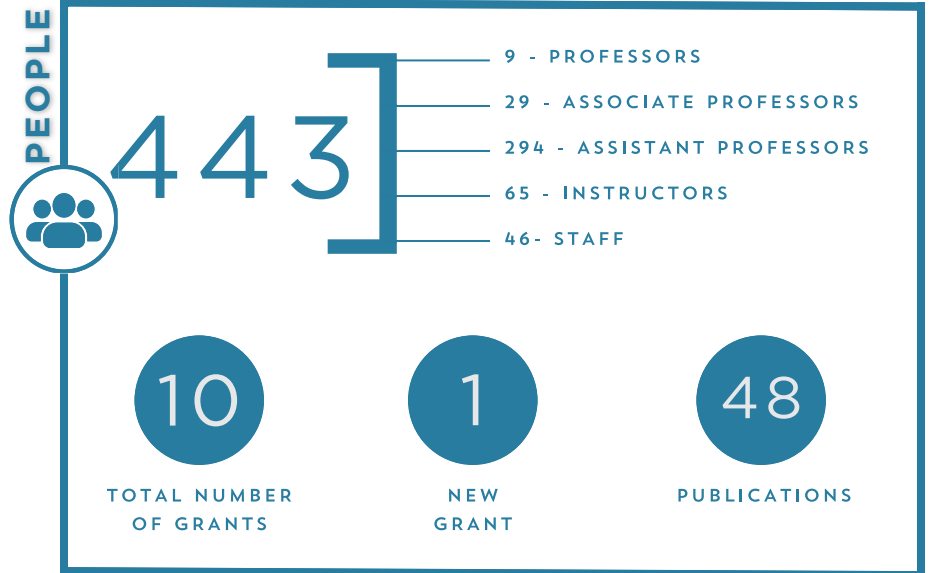
The Section hosted the 24th Annual GI & Liver Course at The Westin Houston Medical Center, offering both in-person and livestream options. Faculty partnered with the Texas Interventional Endoscopy Group to lead the 8th Annual GI Endoscopy Nurse & Tech Hands-On Course, drawing more than 100 attendees, and the Transluminal and Third Space Endoscopy workshop, which featured a live procedure streamed to 600 participants worldwide. The annual Graham & Schwartz Lectureship welcomed Dr. Andrew T. Chan from Harvard. He presented "Beyond the Heart, Aspirin for the Prevention of Cancer." In addition, the recently renewed T32 Gastroenterology and Hepatology Research Training Program, led by Dr. Kanwal, ensures the Section can support fellows for another five years.



GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE



JOEY FISHER, M.D., M.P.H.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of General Internal Medicine comprises more than 350 faculty and staff serving 10 clinical locations in Greater Houston. The team is committed to innovation, exploration, and translation of scientific discovery into high-quality, patient-centered care as primary care clinicians and hospitalists. All BCM medical students rotate through the Section's inpatient services, and all 200 Internal Medicine residents complete their ambulatory continuity clinic and inpatient ward experience under the guidance of Section faculty. Members serve extensively at BCM and within national organizations. Leadership roles include BCM faculty senators, chairs of key committees at affiliate institutions, President-Elect of the national Medicine-Pediatrics Program Director Association, and Co-Chair of the national Society of General Internal Medicine Clinic Directors Interest Group.



Drs. Lindsay Vaclavik, Hillary Kim-Vences, Lee Lu, and Daniel Murphy.

EDUCATION

The faculty consistently earn top educator awards, including the 2025 Barbara & Corbin Robertson Presidential Award for Excellence in Education (Dr. Nadia Ismail), 2025 Graduating Class Outstanding Teacher Award (Dr. Rosa Michelle Schmidt), and multiple Norton Rose Fulbright Educator Awards (Drs. Anita Kusnoor and Jaime Rueda). In the School of Medicine, Section faculty lead new, innovative courses, workshops, curricular threads, and the curriculum committee. Drs. Kusnoor and Maria Maldonado have piloted workplace assessments for the student sub-internship rotation. Dr. Jonathan Lim launched the Academy of Clinical Teaching and Assessment program, which has been well-received by the medical students. Dr. Stephanie Sherman, the newly appointed Senior Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine residency program, and Dr. Zaven Sargsyan, the Associate Program Director, co-chaired the successful inaugural BCM Hospital Medicine: Updates & New Perspectives conference. Dr. Ricardo Nuila led the Humanities Expression and Arts Lab: Writing Well Retreat in Blanco, Texas. Faculty continue to receive national acknowledgment, as exemplified by Dr. Lubna Khawaja receiving the 2025 Southern Society of General Internal Medicine's "Leader in General Internal Medicine" Award.

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The faculty collaborate on numerous scholarly activities to advance knowledge in clinical care (e.g., quality improvement interventions, clinical vignettes) and education (e.g., curriculum development and assessment) as well as efforts related to medical humanities and social determinants of health. More than 20 faculty members presented at national conferences (Society of Hospital Medicine, the Society of General Internal Medicine, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine/Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, and Association of American Medical Colleges Southern Group on Educational Affairs). Faculty are co-investigators on grants focused on cancer survivorship, opiate and alcohol use disorders, environmental and maternal health, food insecurity with chronic kidney disease, and space medicine. Dr. Anoop Agrawal's article, "Twelve tips on applying AI tools in HPE scholarship using Boyer's model," in *Medical Teacher*, provides a framework for leveraging the capabilities of artificial intelligence tools. Drs. Joseph-Kevin Igwe and Ngozi Okorafor uncovered a greater understanding of barriers to access and opportunities for telemedicine in neglected urban communities (Telemedicine and e-Health). Dr. Holland Kaplan has helped clinicians across the country navigate ethical challenges through her publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Medical Science Educator*.

CLINICAL

The Section continues to play a key role in BCM's mission of delivering high-quality, compassionate health care, with more than 100,000 outpatient visits and 300,000 inpatient visits.



2025 BCM Hospital Medicine Conference.

The Section further expanded its clinical sites by developing a hospital medicine service line at the McNair campus. Quality metrics across sites remain excellent, with consistently top patient experience scores. The team has been recognized by *Houstonia* Magazine, *Texas Monthly*, and BCM through multiple awards for patient care, education, and professionalism. Dr. Radha Rao received a challenge coin from VA Secretary Doug Collins for her outstanding dedication and service to veterans and the VA. Dr. Lindsay Vaclavik received BCM's Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Scholar Award. Drs. Priti Dangayach, Doris Lin, and Julian Swanson disseminated their expertise in optimizing patient experience through their article, "Interactive, Case-Based Workshop on the Patient Experience for Internal Medicine Residents," published in *MedEdPortal*. Dr. Jill Jacoby and Ashley Vaughn, R.N., shared their innovative Nurse Practitioners Onboarding Bootcamp at the Society of Hospital Medicine national conference. Faculty spearheaded effective initiatives to enhance high-value care, including the sickle cell protocol at BSLMC and an antibiotic stewardship project at CHI-St. Luke's Sugar Land. Drs. Allison Heinen Taylor and Jacoby earned recognition this year for their two multidisciplinary clinical quality improvement programs to reduce falls; both were funded by BSLMC Accelerating Clinical Excellence grants. Isabel Valdez, PA-C, was selected to serve as the Director of APPs at Baylor Medicine.

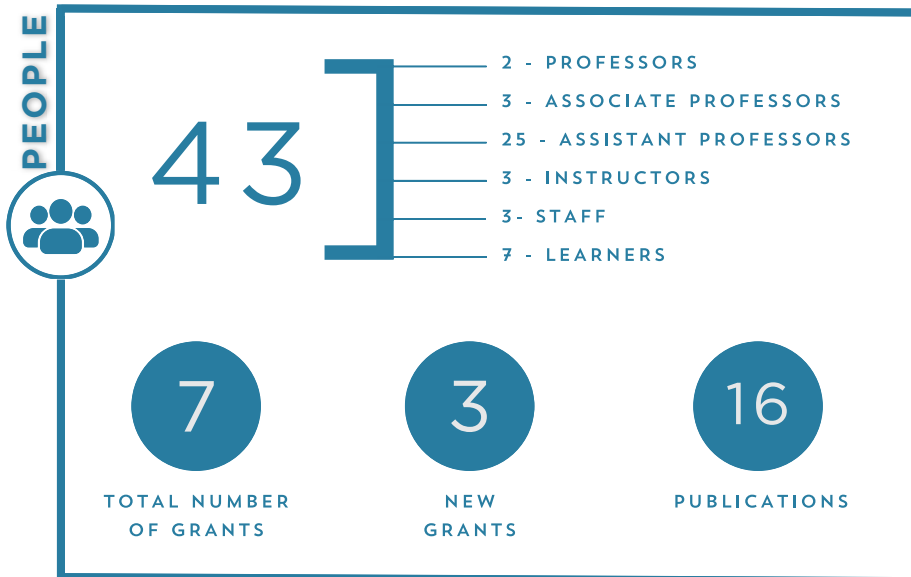


Drs. Nnenna Onochie and Michael Shieh

GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE



ELIZABETH KVALE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine delivers high-quality care to older adults and patients living with serious illnesses across Houston. The Section provides comprehensive services at BSLMC, Harris Health, and MEDVAMC, supporting a dedicated team of specialists in both geriatrics and palliative care.

Over the past year, the Section has grown its services and team by adding new faculty to the Harris Health pavilion, the inpatient palliative team at BSLMC, and the research division, which allowed the Section to meaningfully affect health care delivery. The Section remains steadfast in its goal to advance the care of aging populations and those with serious illnesses through innovative, patient-centered approaches.



Drs. Mary Garcia and Leanne Jackson



Drs. El-Serag and Kvale

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL

The Section's dedication to excellence is demonstrated by the accolades of its two ambulatory clinics: the Vallbona Health Center Geriatrics Clinic, led by Dr. Julia Reyser, and BSLMC's Senior Care Clinic, led by Dr. Ahsan Rizvi. Both clinics have been recognized as Age-Friendly Health Systems by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in partnership with the American Hospital Association and Catholic Health Association of the U.S. This designation reflects the Section's commitment to delivering age-sensitive, high-quality care. This year, the Section expanded its clinical reach at the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center and within the inpatient geriatric space at Harris Health.

RESEARCH

The Section is committed to advancing the science of geriatric and palliative medicine. For example, Dr. Jason Bowman was awarded the prestigious K12 Research Scientist Development Award from the NIH, and Dr. Astrid Grouls was awarded a grant from the ALS Association and is currently enrolling subjects in a study aiming to better understand fatigue in ALS patients.

EDUCATION

The Section's fellowship remains one of the U.S.'s largest geriatric fellowships. Fellows received awards at the Huffington Center for Aging Symposium and presented research at the annual American Geriatrics Society conference. Partnerships with MD Anderson Cancer Center and Texas Children's Hospital have strengthened our palliative care training with innovative programs. This year, the team introduced palliative medicine training to the internal medicine residents in the inpatient clinic at BSLMC and the outpatient clinics at the O'Quinn Cancer Center and MEDVAMC.



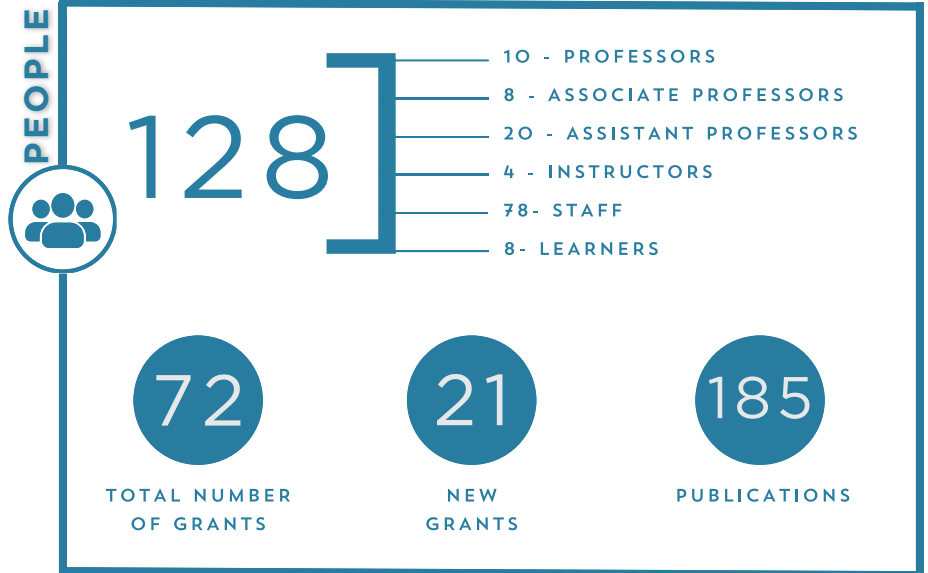
Section Leadership Team



HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH



LAURA PETERSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Health Services Research and the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety (IQuEst) is committed to improving health and well-being through innovations in health care delivery. The Section continues to advance patient-centered care through national leadership in guideline development and applied research. For example, Dr. Bhavika Kaul served on the guideline committee that published the inaugural “Approach to the Evaluation and Management of Interstitial Lung Abnormalities” clinical statement by the American Thoracic Society.

Faculty excellence in clinical scholarship was also recognized across the institution. Dr. Jessica Davila received the 2025 Clark Faculty Service Award from BCM, honoring her outstanding professionalism and service. IQuEst’s financial analyst, Kristin Peters, M.Sc., was honored with the BCM Department of Medicine’s Emerging Leader Award at the Annual Staff Awards, highlighting the essential role of staff contributions in supporting clinical and research operations.



Dr. Barbara Trautner



VA Military Exposures Research Program Core

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Section faculty received 21 individual and collaborative grants in FY25, totaling more than \$14.1 million. Funded investigators include Drs. Laura Petersen (VA Health Services Research [HSR] Merit; VA HSR Consortia of Research), Bhavika Kaul (HSR Career Development Award; Inaugural Oscar Auerbach Visiting Scholar at the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence), Sylvia Hysong (VA HSR Career Scientist), Drew Helmer and Stephen Bujarski (VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative [QUERI] Data Science), Kelley Arredondo (Office of Rural Health), Kathryn Kanzler (Department of Defense Pilot), Mandi Sonnenfeld (VA QUERI Implementation Science Learning Initiative), Hilary Touchett (Office of Rural Health), Anita Chary (Alzheimer's Association; Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Foundation), Traber Giardina (Institute for Healthcare Improvement Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine Seed), Molly Horstman (subcontract to the University of Texas Health Science Center), Nipa Kamdar (VA Office of Research and Development Pilot; Veterans Health Administration Office of Health Equity), and Darius Dawson (VA Office of Health Equity).

Several faculty received national recognition for their research leadership. Dr. Kaul was honored with the 2025 Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation, recognizing her as an early-career physician-scientists who has made notable research achievements. Dr. Trenton Haltom was appointed Associate Editor of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and Dr. Andrew Zimolzak was elected to the BCM Faculty Senate as a representative for the VA affiliate. Four Section faculty earned promotions in academic year 2025, including Dr. Davila to Professor and Drs. Haltom, Touchett, and Darius Dawson to Assistant Professor, reflecting their contributions to advancing research and scholarship.

Dr. Andrew Zimolzak was awarded Best Oral Abstract Presentation at the 2023 Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine conference for his presentation, "Machine Learning for Enhanced Electronic Trigger Detection of Diagnostic Errors."

EDUCATION

Education remains central to the mission of preparing the next generation of health care leaders. IQuEST Grand Rounds continued to feature Research in Progress, Job Talks, Visiting Professors, and Workshops, which provide faculty, trainees, and staff with opportunities to share knowledge and collaborate. Professional development included training in Crucial Conversations and Insight Discovery, which foster self-awareness, improve communication, and enhance team effectiveness. Junior faculty and fellows participated in workshops on grant writing and foundational research skills.

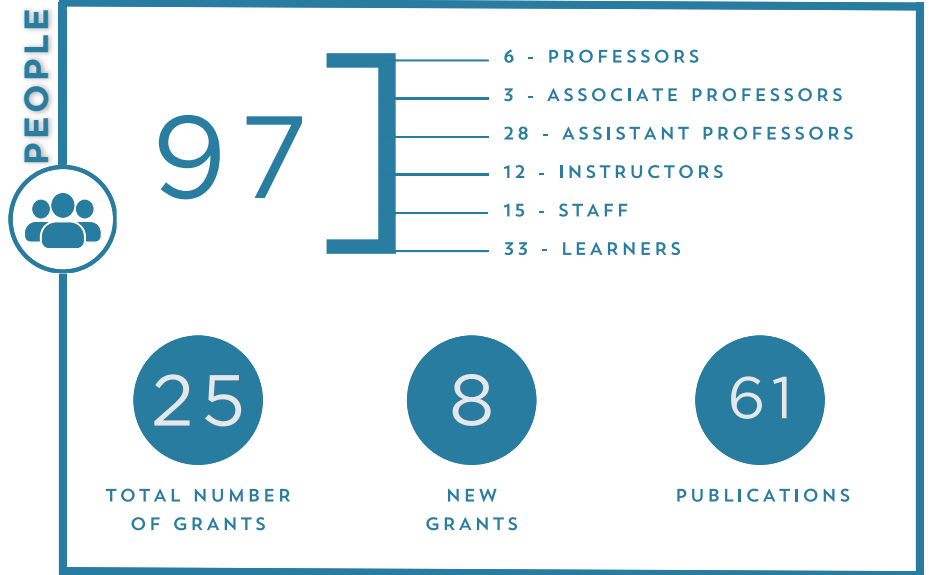
Faculty were recognized for their contributions to education. Dr. Kyler Godwin received a Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Leadership. Dr. Davila was named Deputy Director of BCM's Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. In addition, Dr. Haltom, Zimolzak, and other faculty presented their educational scholarship nationally, reinforcing the Section's leadership in advancing HSR and education.



HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY



LEO LUZNIK, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Hematology and Oncology is a leader in academic research and teaching. It provides patient care at multiple facilities, ensuring comprehensive treatment for a wide range of hematologic and oncologic conditions. The faculty practice at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, BSLMC, Ben Taub Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital-Women's Pavilion, MEDVAMC, and Houston Methodist Hospital. This year, the Section prioritized strategic planning, aligning clinical metrics with national benchmarks and establishing robust clinical trial portfolios.

The Section promotes the advancement of innovative treatment protocols developed internally to enhance both patient outcomes and faculty academic productivity. A few highlights of the strategic plan are to establish cohesive teams, remove silos, promote integration across all practices, promote teaching excellence, and foster the career development of faculty and trainees.



2025 Graduating Fellows



Dr. Senthil Sukumar at the 66th ASH Annual Meeting

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Section faculty conducted laboratory and clinical research, with a focus on translational studies to understand hematologic and oncologic disorders. Faculty secured federal, foundation, and industry funding, totaling \$3,324,935 this fiscal year, including a \$1 million CPRIT award to Drs. Shalini Makawita and Akiva Diamond. Drs. Makawita and Ahmed Elkhanany received the Robert A Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials Career Development Award. The Section published 61 articles, contributing significantly to the field. Section faculty also presented their findings at the annual meetings of the American Society of Hematology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Leo Luznik delivered plenary presentations at meetings in China, Germany, Canada, and Italy.

CLINICAL

Clinical care expanded significantly, especially at the O'Quinn Medical Tower, home of the new Phase 1 clinical trial program, which offers patients access to novel therapies. The Pancreatic Cancer Program joined the Canopy Cancer Collective, to enhance multidisciplinary care. Section faculty launched innovative trials supported by the Margaret Alkek Foundation and CPRIT that target solid tumors and hematologic malignancies.

The adult hematology faculty became members of the HHT Center of Excellence, one of only two centers of excellence for the treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia in Texas.

EDUCATION

Education remains a cornerstone of the Section's mission. The annual Board Review in Hematology and Oncology, co-sponsored with MD Anderson, is now one of the largest in the nation. In 2024, Drs. Martha Mims and Senthil Sukumar were featured speakers. The fellowship program graduated seven fellows, with five securing academic appointments. Dr. Natalie Torrejon received the ASCO Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award for Diversity and Inclusion; Dr. Hussein Safa was selected for the 2025 ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop; and Dr. Sukumar was selected into the ASH Clinical Research Training Institute. Faculty received numerous teaching and mentorship awards, including Dr. Helen Heslop's Pediatric Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Elkhanany's Best Faculty Research Mentor Award. At the BCM Faculty Award Day ceremony, Dr. Luznik was honored with the prestigious Alta G. Longenbaugh Professorship in Cancer Immunology. Dr. Meera Patel was also recognized with the Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care.



Conquer Cancer Conference, ASCO Foundation

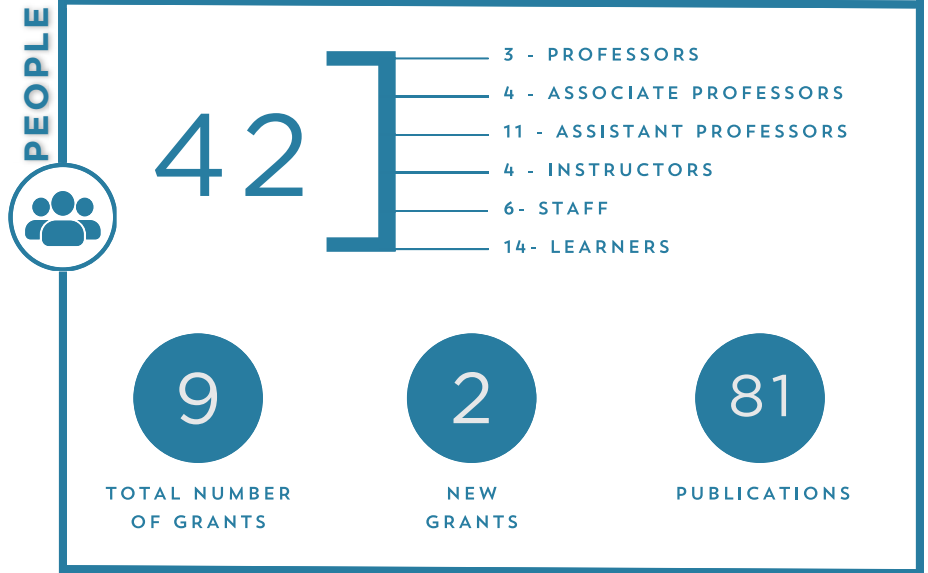


Dr. Kaochar's Lab Graduation Party

IMMUNOLOGY, ALLERGY, AND RHEUMATOLOGY



JASVINDER SINGH, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

The Section of Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology has provided excellent patient care, earning top scores in patient satisfaction in FY25. The rheumatology service line won the 2025 best service award at Harris Health. The Section started a new collaborative rheumatology-renal clinic co-led by Drs. Rashmi Maganti and Medha Airy for patients with immune-disease-related kidney conditions. Patients can now see two clinicians on the same day in the same visit and make real-time collaborative care decisions.

Dr. Jena Nimri continues to provide a dedicated clinic for diagnostic and therapeutic musculoskeletal ultrasonography procedures. The Section is continuing its close working relationship with the Department of Dermatology, with all patch tests being performed at the McNair campus. Section clinicians had more than 3,500 outpatient and more than 300 inpatient consultations in FY25.



Lawanna Meade



Drs. Hashem El-Serag and Jasvinder Singh

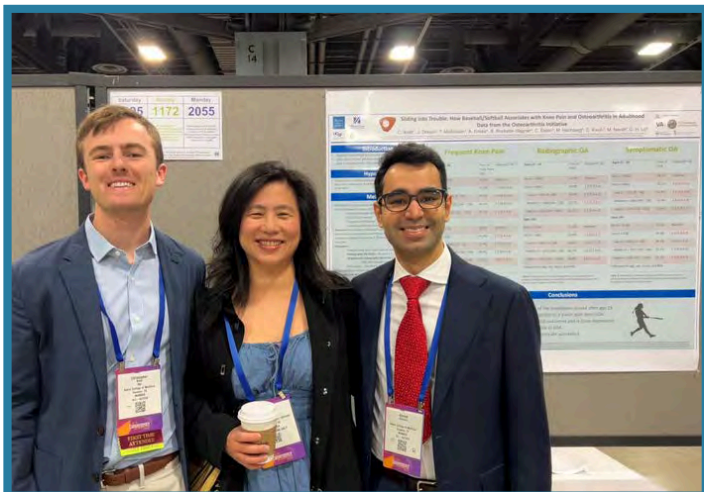
SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

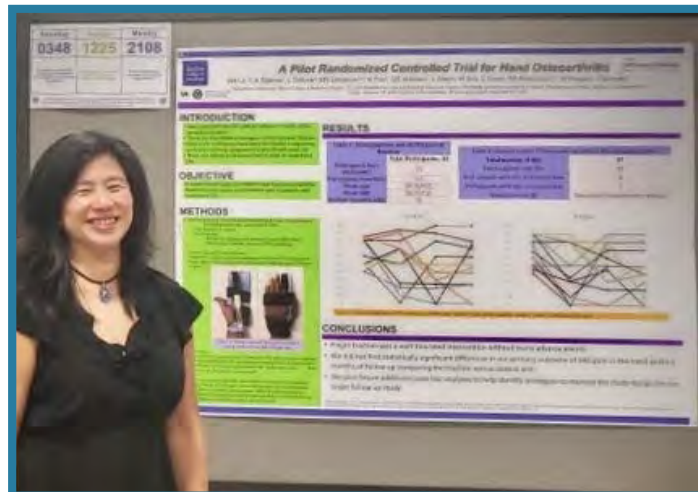
The adult rheumatology fellowship has continued its tradition of excellence in clinical education. Fellows have a 100% first-time board-pass rate, and 58% remain in academics in their first position after graduation. They provide outstanding clinical care at Harris Health, MEDVAMC, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. The BCM Allergy and Immunology Fellowship—Internal Medicine Track added a second fellowship spot last year, making the Texas Children’s Hospital-Baylor Allergy Fellowship one of the largest in the country. Despite the program being divided (pediatrics and internal medicine tracks), the clinical curriculum is fully integrated, and internal-medicine-track fellows spend nearly 50% of their training at Texas Children’s Hospital. Internal-medicine-track fellows receive comprehensive training in adult and pediatric patients and spend eight weeks per year caring for rare primary immunodeficiency patients while rotating on the Texas Children’s Hospital immunology inpatient service line. The fellows continue to provide high-quality care to our patients and help the Section achieve its top goals in its education and research missions.

RESEARCH

Section faculty are pursuing cutting-edge research into various rheumatic and allergy diseases. Drs. David Corry, Sandeep Agarwal, Tiphany Vogel, Antony Rodriguez, and Sanjiv Sur are performing translational research in animal models to better understand what causes rheumatic and allergic diseases and improve future treatments. Drs. Kalpana Bhairavarasu and Jasvinder Singh are performing a large real-world trial to see how new treatments improve patient outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. Maganti is leading clinical trials of new treatments for patients with rheumatic diseases. The Section hired its first advanced practitioner for the clinical practice to help reduce wait times for new outpatient visits. Dr. Antony Rodriguez received the 12th annual Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Grace Lo’s paper on Bicycling to prevent Knee Osteoarthritis was selected as the 2024 Paper of the Year in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*. Dr. David Corry was a recipient of BCM’s 2024–2025 Proof-of-Concept Award.



American College of Rheumatology Convergence

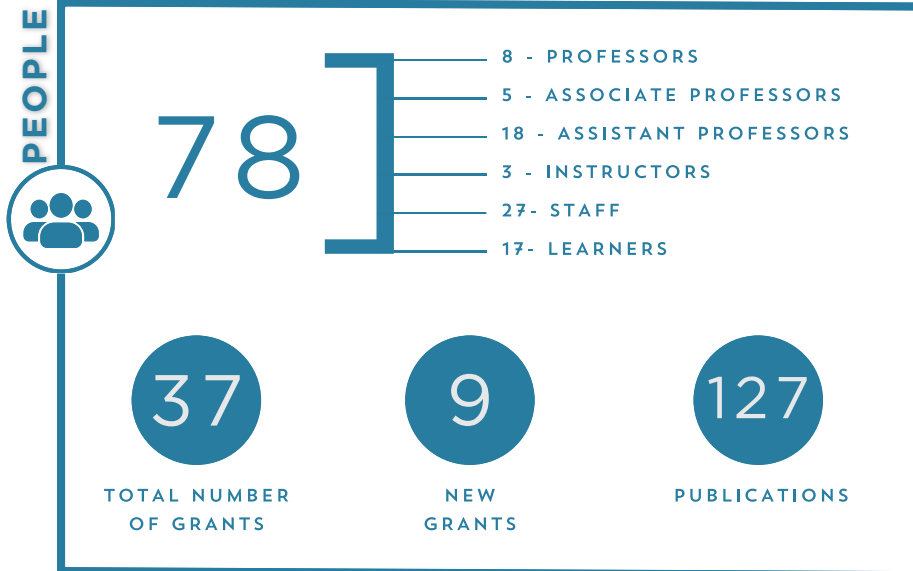


Dr. Grace Lo

INFECTIOUS DISEASES



THOMAS GIORDANO, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

EDUCATION

The fellowship program in the Section of Infectious Diseases continues to attract excellent fellows in a competitive national environment. Dr. Tyler Lambing was selected as the Outstanding Educator by the 2024–2025 Infectious Diseases Fellows, and Dr. Zach Shepard was selected for the Best Subspecialty Clinic Teaching Award at Harris Health by the BCM Internal Medicine Residents. Drs. Yuriko Fukuta and Eva Clark received BCM’s Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Awards for excellence in education.

Drs. Shital Patel and Melanie Goebel continue to lead the BCM AIDS Education Training Center, which provides HIV education to clinicians across Texas. They hosted a conference bringing the five AIDS Education Training Centers in Texas together for the first time. Dr. Alison Robins led the publicly available, citywide Infectious Diseases Conference. Dr. Prathit Kulkarni was selected to be a member of the Training Program Directors’ Community of Practice Operations workgroup by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.



Infectious Diseases Fellows and Faculty Leaders at the Section's Research Retreat

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The Section had many research achievements this year. Section faculty lead both the Vaccine Research Center and the Texas Developmental Center for AIDS Research. Drs. Patel, Robert Atmar, Indira Mysorekar, Rafael Michita (a fellow in the Mysorekar lab), and Jennifer Whitaker were awarded new major grants from the NIH. Drs. Kulkarni, Mysorekar, Clark, Sarwat Khalil, Daniel Musher, Maria Rodriguez-Barradas, and Rizwan Sohail had publications in high-impact journals. The Mysorekar lab discovered that one of the mechanisms Zika virus uses to spread in the human placenta is tunneling nanotubes (published in *Nature Communications*). This finding could transform the understanding of the spread of viruses during pregnancy. Drs. Atmar, Musher, and Rodriguez-Barradas were named 2024 Top Scientists by Research.com. Section faculty served on several NIH grant review panels. Dr. Theresa Sepulveda won the Young Investigator Award at the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Conference. Dr. Mysorekar was inducted as President of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology for a 2-year term.

CLINICAL

Section faculty contribute to national practice guidelines and infectious diseases organizations. They serve in leadership positions for the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; on a panel writing the Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in Adults and Adolescents with HIV; and on the committee for the Expert Consensus Statement Update on Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Device Lead Management and Extraction. Dr. Fukuta received a BCM Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, and Dr. Stacey Rose was named a 2025 Texas Super Doctor by *Texas Monthly*. Dr. Mayar Al Mohajer was elected the President-Elect for the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, meaning he will be President-Elect in 2026, President in 2027, and Immediate-Past President in 2028.



Graduating Fellows, Class of 2025

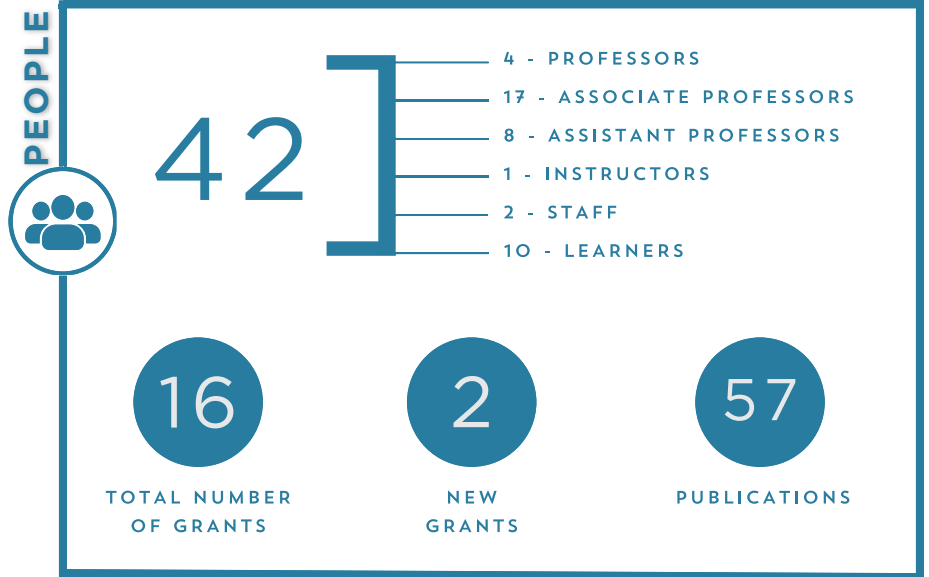


Tropical Medicine Fellows and Faculty

NEPHROLOGY



**WOLFGANG WINKELMAYER,
M.D., M.P.H., SC.D.
SECTION CHIEF**



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

The Section of Nephrology faculty at Baylor Medicine grew to nine full-time equivalents. The top fellow of the 2024 fellowship class, Dr. Sarwar Khan, joined the faculty at Baylor Medicine in August 2024. They recruited three additional colleagues to the Baylor Medicine Practice, Drs. Tina Thomas (general nephrology), Brittany Schreiber (transplant nephrology), and Ms. Meaza Gebru, MSN, in September 2026. Section faculty at Harris Health exceeded their productivity target by >20%. They were also delighted to welcome Dr. Iliana Barrientos, a dual pediatric and adult nephrologist, who is spending half of her time at

Harris Health and the other half at Texas Children's Hospital. The Section recruited an additional nephrologist, Dr. Mingyue (Amy) He, to join the Harris Health team in August 2025. Dr. Hania Kassem received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Section for her successful work leading the peritoneal dialysis clinical and educational program at Quentin Mease. The faculty in the Renal Section at MEDVAMC continued their extraordinarily productive work under significant personnel constraints in Academic Year 2025. The MEDVAMC team welcomed a new faculty colleague, Dr. Melanie Wanigatunga, in September 2025.



Drs. Bryan Tucker and Wolfgang Winkelmayr



Dr. Sankar Navaneethan



Drs. Wolfgang Winkelmayr, Mark Sarnak, Garabed Eknoyan, and Sankar Navaneethan

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Dr. Jizhong Cheng, along with several other Section faculty, had a notable manuscript in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* titled, “Interplay Between Skeletal Muscle Catabolism and Remodeling of Arteriovenous Fistula by Yes-Associated Protein 1 (YAP1) Signaling.” Dr. David Sheikh-Hamad was appointed Chair of the Subcommittee for Nephrology on the VA’s Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development and Clinical Science Research & Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board. Dr. Sankar Navaneethan was appointed Chair of the Kidney, Endocrine, and Digestive Disorders Study Section of the National Institutes for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease. Dr. Zhaoyong (Daniel) Hu was awarded a four-year competing renewal of his R01 grant titled, “Protein Nutrition in Experimental Uremia.” Dr. Wolfgang Winkelmayr presented the Phase 2b trial of a novel Factor XI/XIa inhibitor, MK-2060, at the 62nd Annual Congress of the European Renal Association in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Carl P. Walther earned a Ph.D. degree through the BCM Clinical Scientist Training Program.

EDUCATION

Dr. Bryan M. Tucker was the recipient of the prestigious 2025 John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award, which recognizes faculty for the

outstanding teaching of the medical school curriculum. Dr. Khan was honored with the 2025 Award for Best Subspecialty Teaching Faculty at BSLMC. Dr. Sehrish Ali received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Section of Nephrology. Dr. Kassem was appointed co-chair of the inaugural DOM Fellowship Service and Evaluation Committee. The Nephrology Fellowship Program, led by Dr. Maulin Shah (Program Director) and Drs. Ali and Kassem (Associate Program Directors), continued its recent successes by matching five outstanding candidates into the fellowship class of 2027. Dr. Navaneethan served as the co-chair of the program committee for the 2025 Spring Clinical Meetings of the National Kidney Foundation in Boston, MA, where Drs. Kassem (“Dialysis in Disaster: Patient and Center Planning for Emergencies”) and Winkelmayr (“Treating Patients with Kidney Disease and Atrial Fibrillation: What We Have and What’s in the Pipeline?”) presented invited lectures.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Navaneethan, the Garabed Eknoyan, M.D., Endowed Professor of Medicine and Associate Chief of the Section, was honored by the National Kidney Foundation with their 2025 Garabed Eknoyan Award. This award recognizes an individual who has promoted the mission of the National Kidney Foundation in making lives better for people with kidney disease through exceptional contributions to their key initiatives or clinical research in the field of kidney disease. Dr. L. Parker Gregg was accepted into Alpha Omega Alpha as a faculty inductee. Dr. Jose J. Perez, III, received a Power of Professionalism award. The 2024 visiting professor for the 23rd Annual Garabed Eknoyan, M.D., Endowed Lectureship was Dr. Mark Sarnak, the Dr. Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Professor of Medicine and Chief of Nephrology at Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Sarnak educated the section on new insights into cardiorenal syndromes.

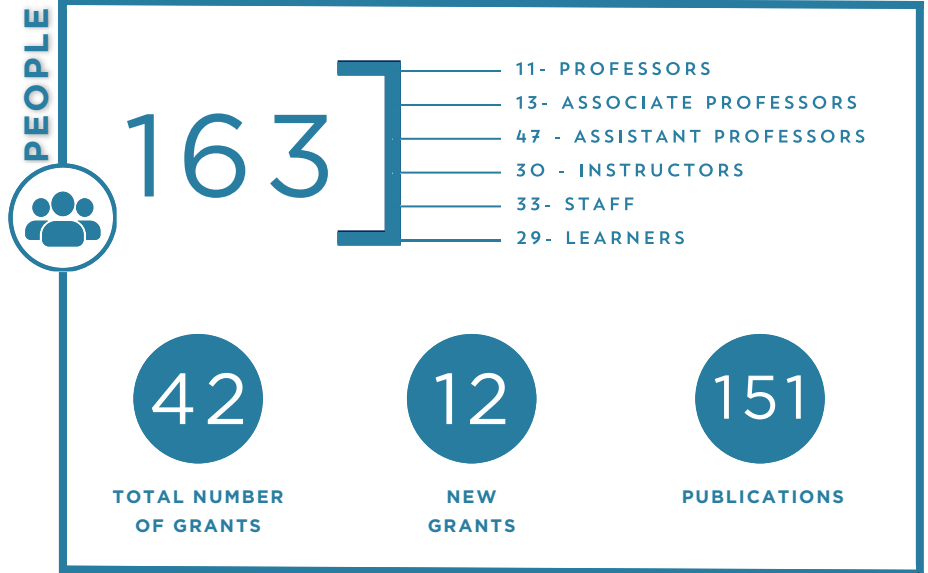


Drs. Bryan Tucker and Hashem El-Serag

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE



IVAN ROSAS, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

This was another great year for the Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. For Baylor Medicine, there was a 24% increase in new patient visits, an 11% increase in overall visits, and a 20% increase in overall productivity. The Section added a fourth ICU pavilion and continues to expand services in the Texas Children’s Hospital’s Pavilion for Women, caring for some of the most complex patients in the country. BSLMC continues to rank second in the U.S. for acuity. Their quality metrics are consistently above national benchmarks, reflecting their dedication to delivering the highest level of critical care.

The Center for Advanced Lung Disease and Transplantation had 3,924 patient visits, up 21% from FY24; Baylor Medicine performed 108 lung transplants in FY25, making it one of the country’s five largest lung transplant programs. The Interventional Pulmonary Program, established at Baylor Medicine and Ben Taub Hospital, experienced substantial growth, and the team performed more than 400 advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The Interventional Pulmonary team completed its 300 robotic bronchoscopy procedures. Overall, the clinical teams continue to expand and provide cutting-edge care to the Houston community.



Dr. Nicola Hanania



Drs. Hashem El-Serag and Sunjay Devarajan

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Section faculty continue to be successful in obtaining federal, foundation, and pharma funding for original research and clinical trials; a total of \$7.5 million was awarded this academic year. The NIH grant portfolio includes \$4.2 million, \$1.44 million in non-federal, and \$1.86 million in the clinical trials unit. Two investigators were awarded new R01 grants, and one of the scientists is transitioning to independence. The Section published 145 publications, several in high-impact journals, which demonstrates a strong commitment from the faculty and fellows to be highly productive and make meaningful contributions to the field. A new K12 grant, co-led by Dr. Rolando Rumbaut, was funded as part of the BCM-University of Houston CTSA. This is in addition to two NIH T32 training grants being housed in the Section, representing a unique opportunity for fellows to advance in their research careers.

EDUCATION

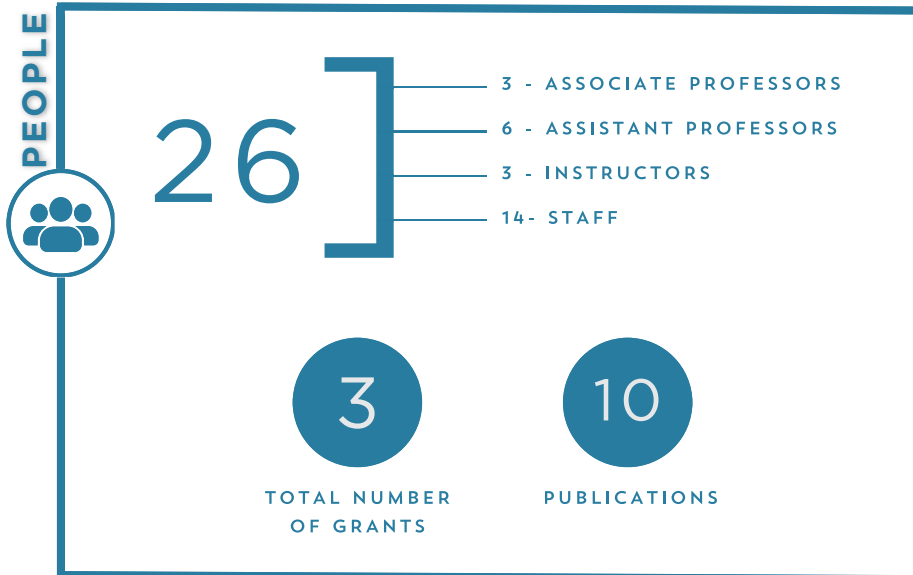
The faculty actively participate in organizing and teaching within various interdisciplinary lecture series, such as the Baylor Critical Care Interdisciplinary Lecture Series. They also lead sessions in Board Reviews, Journal Clubs, and interactive echocardiography lectures. Workshops on essential and diverse clinical skills further inform learners' hands-on experience. This year, the Section will launch the "Advances in Pulmonary Medicine Annual Course," which is expected to increase educational impact in the region. Nationally, the faculty serve in leadership roles in the American Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society, and Chest, supporting continued medical education efforts in the U.S. and abroad. The Pulmonary Grand Rounds series continues to be a highly attended meeting with internationally recognized speakers discussing a broad spectrum of diseases and cutting-edge treatments.



TRANSITION MEDICINE



ELLEN FREMION, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

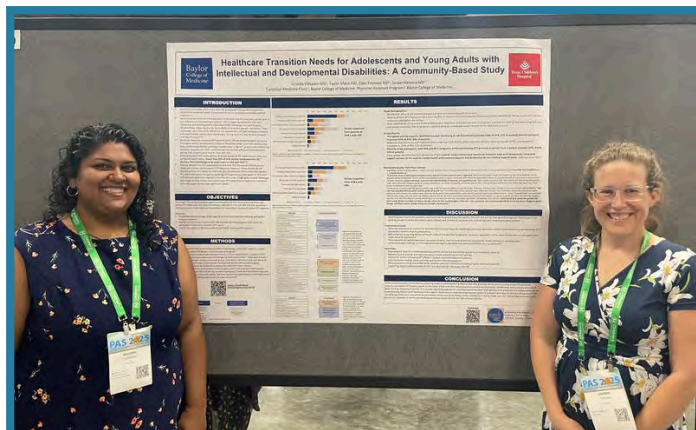
EDUCATION

Education and training remain central to the Section's mission. Over the past year, learners across multiple disciplines trained in intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)-focused care, gaining experience through direct clinical practice and interprofessional collaboration. The one-year Adult Developmental Medicine Fellowship, now in its fourth year, continues to prepare the next generation of leaders in adult IDD care and will expand to two fellows in the 2026 academic year. Project ECHO, supported by UnitedHealthcare, has grown into a national educational series dedicated to advancing IDD-focused knowledge for clinicians and trainees. Grant-funded programs through Health Resources and Services Administration and

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities further strengthened workforce development and interprofessional education, positioning BCM as a leader in advancing lifespan care for adults with IDD. This year, Dr. Jordan Kemere was honored with the Golisano Health Leadership Award by Special Olympics Texas and serves on the National Disability Medicine Summit Planning Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Faculty shared expertise through invited lectures, including national presentations on improving communication with patients with IDD, educating the next generation of transition-focused providers, and fostering collaborations between pediatric and adult medicine.



Dr. John Berens



Drs. Vrunda Vithalani and Jordan Kemere

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The Section's research and scholarly contributions continue to advance the field of IDD, addressing both clinical care and caregiver support. This year, faculty published extensively in high-impact journals. The studies examined Project ECHO tele-mentoring for primary care, racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 worry among caregivers, Medicaid long-term services and supports, wellness initiatives in academic medicine, osteoporosis and fragility fracture in adults with cerebral palsy, and medical traumatic stress in adults with spina bifida. A cross-sectional study also explored factors associated with Medicaid waiver eligibility at the time of transfer to adult care. Faculty presented nationally at meetings such as the Pediatric Academic Societies Conference and Health Care Transition Research Consortium Symposium, where trainees contributed abstracts and posters. Dr. John Berens and colleagues were recognized for their quality improvement research on electronic health record data and patient follow-up, earning a top-three abstract award at the 2025 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference.

CLINICAL

The Adult Transition Medicine Clinic continues to expand access and improve outcomes for adults with IDD through a multidisciplinary, team-based model. Integrated services such as OB/GYN and psychotherapy strengthen whole-person care, contributing to reduced hospitalizations and emergency visits. Recognized as a National Committee for Quality Assurance Patient-Centered Medical Home, the clinic recorded 13,695 visits this year, demonstrating consistent growth in both reach and impact. Ongoing research initiatives, supported by nearly \$800,000 in external funding, continue to inform clinical innovation and provide critical insights for caregiver planning. Faculty shared their expertise on the national stage, with presentations at the 25th Annual Chronic Illness and Disability Conference, the Neurodiversity Transition to Adulthood Conference, and the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America Annual Meeting.



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, stands behind a wooden podium in a lecture hall. She is looking towards the audience. The podium has a microphone and a laptop. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads and shoulders are visible, showing they are seated at desks. The background consists of a light-colored wall with a wood-paneled section. A white horizontal line is at the top of the image, and another is at the bottom.

VICE CHAIR GROUPS

VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR EDUCATION

Chair: Richard Hamill, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Education in the Department of Medicine (DOM) collaborates with the College for learning activities at the undergraduate and graduate medical education levels. With the addition of the new medical school campus in Temple, TX, the undergraduate educational group has additional responsibilities for administrative oversight of the Core Medicine and Sub-internship experiences for the 120 medical students at that location. All core clerkships at BCM have transitioned to a Pass-Fail system. As a result, the DOM UME group utilizes a new competency-based evaluation system to assess core students, which has been successfully incorporated. Core students have been enthusiastically participating in case simulations and a new POCUS course specifically designed for their needs. The DOM still ranks #1 among all clinical departments at Baylor on the annual Graduate Questionnaire Survey administered to graduating medical students by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Graduate medical education programs in the DOM at Baylor rank among some of the largest in the U.S., with approximately 186 residents and 162 subspecialty fellows in multiple disciplines. Despite the size and geographic dispersion of the graduate medical education programs, all of them have achieved successful annual continuing accreditation without

citations from the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education. Trainees have been recognized for their scholarly presentations at local, national, and international subspecialty meetings and are highly recruited upon completion of their training.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

Chair: Kyler Godwin, Ph.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation advanced institutional healthcare excellence through a strategic focus on education, mentorship, and scholarly engagement. The VCG led the annual Quality Academy Day for Department of Medicine (DOM) clinical fellows, delivering just-in-time instruction and hands-on coaching to 73 fellows across 11 subspecialty programs. In September, fellows received tailored guidance on quality improvement projects from VCG members and DOM faculty mentors. Their work culminated in a dynamic showcase on May 1 at Quality Academy Day, where fellows presented their projects through posters and oral abstracts. Top projects were competitively selected for oral presentation, with the winning abstract titled “Improving Iron Supplementation for Patients Admitted at the Houston VA with Gastrointestinal Bleeding” by Drs. Basim Ali, Jinna Chu, Conrad Fernandes, Franciska Gudenkauf, Disha Kumar, Taylor Riggs, and Emmanuel Palomera Tejada, under the mentorship of Dr. Theresa Nguyen Wenker and Dr. Robert Sealock. In addition to the

Academy, VCG provided individualized coaching to five departmental QI initiatives, further embedding a culture of continuous improvement across the DOM.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR HARRIS HEALTH AND BEN TAUB

Chair: Hemant Roy, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Harris Health and Ben Taub has had a successful academic year. The group recently started planning for the new ~\$410 million tower. Clinical highlights include expanded services in cardiology with a state-of-the-art cath lab, including a dedicated electrophysiology room. Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine has developed a multifaceted interventional pulmonary program and specialty clinics. Gastroenterology and Hepatology has expanded faculty at Quinten-Mease, and General Internal Medicine has made progress in lowering the length of stay through cutting-edge programs, including hospital-at-home and oncological clinical pathways. Nephrology has continued to expand the use of peritoneal dialysis. From a research perspective, there are a number of NIH-funded, pharma-sponsored, and investigator-initiated projects. From an academic perspective, the third annual BTH-BCM Research Day was a success, with over 100 posters and internal medicine trainees winning several awards, including in translational research. Educationally, Harris Health continues to be an enjoyable rotation and is coming off a recent successful CLER visit. An evidence-based morbidity and mortality and quality assurance conference was implemented, and has received outstanding reviews.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Ruchi Gaba, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Faculty Development advanced initiatives this year to strengthen academic advancement, professional growth, and wellness at BCM. Guided by a faculty needs assessment, the focus was on initiatives they identified as most valuable. In academic development, the VCG launched Pathways to Promotion presentations in each section, followed by a structured Faculty Promotion Series for faculty, including APPs. This series introduced a new promotion brochure and featured sessions on promotion basics, leveraging research, building a strong CV, highlighting teaching and clinical excellence, and concluded with a hands-on workshop providing individualized feedback on promotion materials. Professional development expanded with Baylor's first-ever AI in Healthcare Series, which offered practical insights on applying AI to clinical care, research, and education. Wellness was strengthened through the WISH Mini-Grants, which funded nine

projects from 38 applications supporting fitness, team building, and community connection. Finally, the group hosted a session for section chiefs and directors to provide guidance on annual faculty evaluations.



VICE CHAIR GROUP OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Chair: Biykem Bozkurt, M.D., M.P.H.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) Medical Care Line continues to be recognized as one of the nation's premier care models, expanding access and achieving national benchmarks for timely, high-quality care. Specialty programs deliver advanced, comprehensive services with exceptional efficiency and outcomes. The cardiac transplant and VAD programs, launched in 2023, have completed 14 transplants and 11 VAD procedures, supported by one of the country's most productive cardiology divisions. Veterans also benefit from cutting-edge interventional cardiology and pulmonary programs, a leading kidney transplant and CVVHD service in nephrology, and a precision oncology program focused on early lung cancer detection and genetic screening. Gastroenterology and Hepatology continue to expand through faculty recruitment, advanced endoscopic care, and national research leadership. The comprehensive cancer center remains one of the few VA facilities

with formal accreditation, while hospitalists, geneticists, and educators across disciplines drive innovations in patient safety and quality. MEDVAMC maintains one of the lowest acute care mortality rates nationwide and is home to the VA's largest genetics service. Faculty at the Houston VA are widely recognized for excellence in research, teaching, and leadership at Baylor and beyond, helping to shape national standards in clinical practice and discovery.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR CLINICAL AFFAIRS

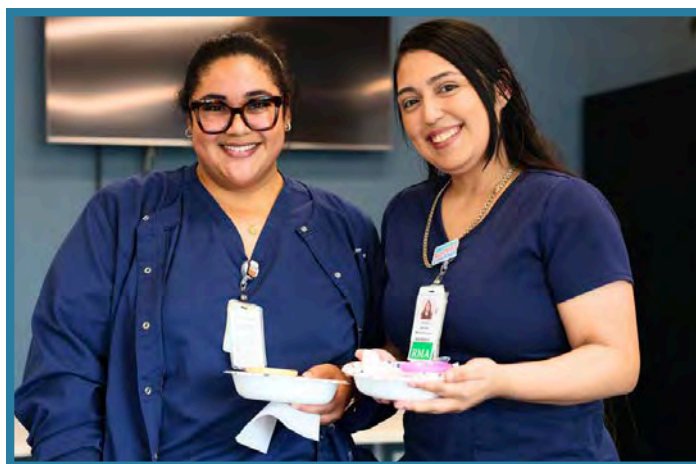
Chair: Mandeep Bajaj, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Clinical Affairs initiated several programs to improve the care of patients. The multidisciplinary program within Baylor Medicine in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) has initiated collaborations with the BCM Learning Health System for quality improvement projects to enhance excellence in the care of patients with MASLD with diabetes and/or obesity and improve patient outcomes utilizing EHR. The DOM clinical practices have added several advanced practice providers to the Baylor Medicine practice. This allows for expedient care of established patients and more time for our expert faculty to assess new patients.

The VCG has expanded the BSLMC inpatient subspecialty consult service to the McNair Campus. The teams provide consultative care to post-operative and med-surg patients in the newly opened ninth and tenth-floor inpatient wards, with more services planned to begin over the next year.

The VCG has continued geographic expansion, particularly in the Sugarland area. There are three Gastroenterologists, a Cardiologist, as well as Hospitalists and Intensivists at St. Luke's Health, Sugarland. Faculty provide office consultations and perform procedures on-site.

The VCG has provided support to the department's faculty in developing applications for the Early Career and Mid-Career Star Awards for Excellence in Patient Care across all pavilions. Several department faculty members were recognized with these awards this year. Furthermore, faculty members were also recognized as outstanding physicians by Houstonia magazine. Many faculty were selected to provide leadership and serve on national society committees, and contributed to writing national and international clinical practice guidelines.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR RESEARCH

Chair: Rolando Rumbaut, M.D., Ph.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Research made significant progress during the past year in support of several strategic priorities, particularly enhancing the pipeline of physician-scientists, hosting research events, and increasing the amount and diversity of research funding. The VCG issued another call for applications for the physician-scientist faculty development award and selected an outstanding faculty recipient of the award. The VCG members participated in another successful recruitment cycle of the department's physician-scientist training program, the Medical Resident Investigator Track. Two outstanding resident physicians were recruited, bringing the total number of trainees in the program to its highest level in over a decade. Further, the VCG members organized the 3rd Nancy Chang, PhD research symposium, and major research events at Baylor's affiliated institutions. The VCG also reviewed evolving priorities of the National Institutes of Health for dissemination with department faculty, aimed at increasing the amount and diversity of research funding.







MOMENTS
THAT
MATTER

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This year, many teammates spent their time volunteering with a variety of organizations, locally, nationally, and internationally. From providing medical screenings at Special Olympics Texas to delivering clean water in Guatemala, Department of Medicine faculty and staff made a meaningful impact well beyond the walls of the clinic, classroom, or lab. They supported major public events such as the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show, mentored future physicians, and sorted books to promote literacy. Their collective efforts reflect the compassion and commitment that define our community. These moments of service remind us that medicine is not only a profession; it is a calling to uplift lives in every space we occupy.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Aishel House
- Friend of the Houston Public Library
- Filter of Hope
- Houston Shock Symposium
- Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show
- Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast & Louisiana
- Santa Maria Hostel
- Special Olympics Texas
- West Texas Trail Walkers



Dr. David Ramsey helped plan and scout 10K trails in New Mexico's Lincoln National Forest for the West Texas Trail Walkers' annual event.



Binu Liz Michael spent a week in Guatemala with Filter of Hope, helping provide clean drinking water to communities in need while connecting with families and supporting both their physical and spiritual well-being.



Lauren Nunez supported speaker logistics at the 2025 Houston Shock Symposium, helping manage presentations and timing while reconnecting with colleagues and advancing medical education.



Yusra Roziak volunteered with Aishel House, where she cooked, baked, and decorated meal bags to provide comforting meals for individuals facing illness.

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK AND RODEO SHOW

At this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, members of the Department of Medicine helped represent Baylor College of Medicine through a wide range of community-facing roles. Volunteers welcomed guests, handed out branded merchandise, and shared information about Baylor's physicians and services. Some assisted at the gate entrances, while others ran interactive activities such as jellybean guessing games that engaged Rodeo-goers of all ages. The atmosphere was electric with perfect weather, cheerful crowds, and moments of connection that highlighted our presence in the Houston community. Volunteers appreciated the chance to reconnect with former colleagues, see local art, enjoy the festivities, and contribute to one of Houston's most iconic events.



LIFE IN THE DEPARTMENT



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Astros Spirit Day



Thanksgiving Celebration



Go Western Day



Halloween Costume Day

FACES AND PLACES

These photos offer a glimpse into the energy and spirit of our department, a community made up of people constantly in motion, teaching, learning, leading, and connecting. With hundreds of individuals contributing in so many ways, it is impossible to capture it all. Still, these snapshots celebrate moments that brought us together and the faces that make our mission possible.



Residents Graduation



Gastroenterology Liver Course



BCM Hospital Medicine Conference



General Internal Medicine Retreat



Pulmonary Grand Rounds



Residents Winter Social

FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

The Faculty Awards Ceremony recognized and celebrated this year's outstanding educators, researchers, and clinical leaders whose excellence drives the department forward. Congratulations to the following:

- Dr. Charu Agrawal - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Khannan Athreya - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Reena Chokshi - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. George Cholankeril - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Eva Clark - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Jessica Davila - Clark Faculty Service Award
- Dr. Sunjay Devarajan - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Avegail Flores - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Yuriko Fukuta - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Kyler Godwin - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Educational Leadership category
- Dr. Ruben Hernaez - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Kamal Hirani - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category



FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

- Dr. Nadia Ismail - Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education
- Dr. Salmaan Jawaid - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Kathryn Kemere - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Natalia Khalaf - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Anita Kusnoor - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Educational Research category
- Dr. Arumina Misra - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Dharani Narendra - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Educational Leadership category
- Dr. Olubunmi Oladunjoye - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Meera Patel - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Jaime Rueda - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in the Teaching and Evaluation category
- Dr. Michelle Schmidt - Graduating Class Outstanding Teacher Award
- Dr. Justin Seagraves - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Shazia Sheik - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Bryan Tucker - John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in the Pre-Clinical Years



2024 STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY

On October 23, 2024, the Department of Medicine Administration Team hosted the inaugural Department of Medicine Staff Awards Ceremony to recognize our incredible staff teammates. With more than 150 submissions, the following awardees were recognized:

Top Teammate Award

- Keke Alexander
- Alethea Coffey
- Abby Dunbar
- Christina Dunlap
- Tammy Frank
- Tammie Thomas



Innovative Thinker Award

- Steven Bark
- Mandy Yang
- Laura Merino
- Jordyn Blaha



Outstanding Character Award

- Janet Castillo
- La Wanna Gage
- Raji Karna
- Sharon Malinowski
- Lilian Morales de Vasconcelos
- Christina Rodriguez

Emerging Leader Award

- Ahmar Mehmood
- Kirstin Peters
- Taylor Price



Chair's Award

- Lois Alfred
- Clarissa Perez-Machado
- Mitchell Grant Coffman

ANNUAL ALKEK LECTURE

For the 2024 Annual Alkek Lecture, the Department of Medicine welcomed Dr. Robert Dittus, Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Vice President of Vanderbilt Health, as the featured speaker for the Annual Alkek Lecture. Dr. Dittus delivered a compelling presentation titled “Learning Health Systems: Learning from what we do and doing what we learn,” highlighting the critical role of continuous learning and innovation in healthcare systems. The event brought together faculty, trainees, and community partners to explore how data-driven insights can improve care delivery and transform medical practice. Supported by the Alkek family, the lecture continues to serve as a cornerstone for academic excellence and forward-thinking dialogue within the department. Dr. Hashem El-Serag, the Margaret M. Alkek Distinguished Chair in Medicine, provided opening remarks and welcomed attendees to this year’s event.



NANCY CHANG RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The annual Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Research Symposium was held at Cullen Auditorium and Rayzor Lounge. The event opened with remarks from Dr. Paul Klotman, Dr. Hashem El-Serag, and Dr. Rolando Rumbaut, setting the tone for a day dedicated to scientific discovery and innovation.

The keynote address, “Shaping the Next Generation of Biomedical Innovators,” was delivered by Dr. Joseph Petrosino. Dr. Nancy Chang, for whom the symposium is named, gave the Founder’s Address. The symposium continues to spotlight innovative research and inspire collaboration across disciplines in the pursuit of medical advancement.



PHILANTHROPY

Endowed chairs and professorships represent the highest academic honors within the Department of Medicine. These prestigious appointments recognize faculty whose exceptional leadership, scholarship, and commitment to discovery strengthen our mission and advance the future of medicine.



Dr. Hashem El-Serag
Margaret M. Alkek Distinguished
Chair in Medicine



Dr. Fasiha Kanwal
Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Endowed Chair for
the Biology of Inflammation Center I



Dr. Sandeep K. Agarwal
The Cullen Trust for Health Care
Endowed Chair in Immunology



Dr. Mark A. Herman
E. L. Wagner, M.D., Chair
of Internal Medicine



Dr. Jason Mills
Herman Brown Endowed
Professorship in Medicine



Dr. Indira Mysorekar
E. L. Wagner, M.D., Chair
of Internal Medicine II



Dr. Hemant Roy
Herman Brown Endowed
Chair in Medicine



Dr. Thomas P. Giordano
M.D. Anderson
Foundation Chair



Dr. Biykem Bozkurt
The Mary and Gordon Cain Chair of
Internal Medicine in the Winters Center
for Heart Failure Research



Dr. Mihail G. Chelu
W. A. "Tex" and Deborah
Moncrief, Jr., Chair



Dr. Robert L. Atmar
John S. Dunn Research Foundation
Clinical Professorship in Infectious
Diseases Honoring Temple W.
Williams, Jr., M.D.



Dr. Yochai Birnbaum
The John S. Dunn Chair in
Cardiology Research and
Education



Dr. Christie M. Ballantyne
J. S. Abercrombie Chair of
Atherosclerosis and Lipoprotein
Research

ENDOWED CHAIRS AND PROFESSORS



Dr. Na Li
J. S. Abercrombie Chair - Atherosclerosis
And Lipoprotein Re



Dr. Elizabeth Kvale
Robert J. Luchi Clinical Chair in
Geriatrics



Dr. Benjamin L. Musher
Barry Stephen Smith Memorial
Endowed Professorship



Dr. Jasvinder Singh
Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Endowed Chair for
the Biology of Inflammation Center I



Dr. Farrah Kheradmand
Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Endowed Professorship
for the Biology of Inflammation Center



Dr. Sanjiv Sur
Nancy Chang, Ph.D., Endowed Chair for
the Biology of Inflammation Center II



Dr. Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer
Gordon A. Cain Chair in
Nephrology



Dr. Sankar D. Navaneethan
Garabed Eknayan, M.D., Endowed
Professorship in Nephrology



Dr. Nicola A. Hanania
The Brown Foundation Endowed
Professorship in Adult Cystic Fibrosis



Dr. Prasun K. Jalal
Stan and Sue Partee Endowed Chair in
Hepatology



Dr. Kalpalatha K. Guntupalli
The Frances K. Friedman And Oscar
Friedman, M.D., '36 Endowed Professorship



Dr. Francesca Polverino
Lester and Sue Smith Endowed
Professorship in Lung Health



Dr. Ivan O. Rosas
Lester and Sue Smith Endowed
Chair in Lung Health



Dr. Aaron Thrift
William T. Butler Endowed Chair for
Distinguished Faculty



Dr. Mohamed Othman
Martha Ann and Harold M. Selzman, M.D.
Distinguished Endowed Chair in Medicine



Jaime Singh, MD, MPH
Dermatology

Scott G. Rosen, MD
Pulmonary, Critical Care
and Sleep Medicine

Leif Cook, MD
Pneumology, Critical Care

Dr. Fisher, M.D., M.P.H.
Internal Medicine

Phillip P. Gochman, MD
Infectious Diseases

Dr. A. Peterson, MD, MPH
ACOS, Research
Internal Medicine

James R. Ely-Surg, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair and Professor
Department of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology
and Hepatology

ACKNOWLEDGMENT



The Department of Medicine would like to thank our leadership team, section chiefs, administrators, and staff for their collective efforts in helping complete this Annual Report.

The report was prepared by:
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Ashley Cox
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